



**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION**

***Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly***

**Synopsis No 2006/36**

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**The Committee on Culture, Science and Education**, meeting in Prague on 30 March to 1 April 2006 with Mr Legendre in the chair:

- paid tribute to the memories of former members of the Committee: Jaroslava Moserova (died 24 March) and Jacques Baumel (died 17 February);

- **University autonomy and accountability in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**: held a colloquy moderated by the rapporteur Mr Jarab (Czech Republic, ALDE) and with the participation of:

- Prof. Roversi Monaco, former Rector of the University of Bologna, President of the Observatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum,
- Dr Barblan, Secretary General of the Observatory,
- Prof. Damian, President of the Romanian National Higher Education Funding Council, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research,
- Dr Corbett, London School of Economics and Political Science,
- Prof. Zlatuska, former Rector of Masaryk University (Brno) and Vice-Chairman of the Czech Senate Committee on Education and Culture,
- Prof. Mikhailov, Rector of the European Humanities University of Minsk in exile in Vilnius,

And exchanged views with a group of students from Belarus;

- **Culture and education in the Czech Republic**: exchanged views with:

- Dr Smolikova, Deputy Minister of Culture,
- Dr Smrcka, Secretariat of the Accreditation Commission, Ministry of Education Youth and Sports;

- **Cultural diversity of the North Caucasus** (rapporteur: Mrs Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE): approved a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft recommendation and expressed the wish that it be presented to the Standing Committee in Moscow on 29 May;

- **Situation of the Finno-Ugric and Samoyed peoples** (rapporteur: Mrs Saks, Estonia, SOC): discussed a draft report together with the consultant expert Dr Pusztay

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
The Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly  
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly

Directors General  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General  
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers  
Director of Communication and Research

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- **Blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion** (rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC): held an exchange of views in the light of the current affairs debate on **freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs** (introduced by its chairman in the Standing Committee on 17 March), agreed to request that that subject be referred to the committee as it was difficult to separate it from the report being prepared by Mrs Hurskainen and decided to cover the matters raised on the basis of a series of hearings that the committee would organise;
- **Media in Italy:** regretted the decision of the Assembly Bureau not to authorise a meeting in Rome to assess the functioning of the media during the current election campaign; designated Mr Mooney (Ireland, ALDE) rapporteur and asked him to investigate the situation as far as he could before the end of the election campaign and report back during the coming part-session;
- **Prix Europa:** was informed by Mr O'Hara on the last presentation of the Assembly current affairs award in Berlin on 22 October 2005 and hoped that the Secretary General would maintain Council of Europe support for this important gathering of media professionals;
- **UEFA:** was informed by Mr de Puig of the UEFA conference on "Uniteagainstracism" organised by UEFA in Barcelona on 1 February 2006 and of proposals for the organisation of an event with UEFA to promote (Council of Europe) principles of good governance in sport;
- **Belarus:** was informed by MM. Jařab and McIntosh on the conference on Belarus held in Prague on 22-23 February and, in the light of the present colloquy on university autonomy, issued a **statement on academic freedom in Belarus;**
- **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe:** was informed by Mr Schneider on the spring session devoted to culture in Strasbourg on 16 March
- **Bureau and Standing Committee:** was informed by its chairman on the meetings of the Assembly Bureau (27 January and 16 March) and Standing Committee (17 March) and in this context;
  - with a view to **priorities of cultural co-operation**, confirmed its wish to present a report as a contribution to the June debate on the follow-up to the Warsaw Summit (rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC);
  - confirmed its wish to continue with the report on **media in Russia**, took note of a memorandum prepared by the rapporteur: Mr McIntosh (UK, SOC) and invited the Russian members of the committee to submit comments;
  - decided to press further for reference for report of the motion for a resolution on access to satellite broadcasting (Ref No 3193);
  - appointed Mr Legendre (France, EPP/CD) rapporteur on promoting the teaching of European literature in the context of increasing awareness of cultural heritage (Ref. No 3194);
  - requested reference to the Committee for report of the motion for a resolution on relations between the state, religion and individuals (Doc. 10822 rev.) and provisionally appointed Mr de Puig (Spain, SOC) rapporteur;
- **Study visits:** visited the National Library (Klementinum) in Prague and Karlstejn Castle, but was unable to make a study visit to the museum and archives in Terezin damaged by the 2002 floods on account of new flooding in the area.
- **Next meetings:**
  - = Strasbourg 10 April 2pm and 13 April 8.30am
  - = Paris, 18 mai (Council of Europe Office)

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